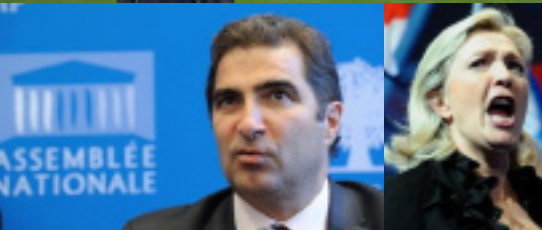




Your Guide to the
**FRENCH
GOVERNMENT**

June
2012



France, a founding member of the European Union, has a population of 65 million (including overseas territories) and is the fifth largest economy in the world.*

In spring 2012, a few months before the highly anticipated American presidential elections and with the eurozone experiencing a major crisis, France held its presidential and legislative elections. Elected in May 2012, President François Hollande is the first Socialist French president to be elected since François Mitterrand, who left office in 1995. Hollande's election represents a major shift in France's leadership, as the Socialist Party and the French left have swept into power across the executive and legislative branches in a series of historic electoral victories.

** Based on Gross Domestic Product (current prices) data in the International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook, April 2012.*

What follows is your guide to the French government and a brief overview of the French political system:

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SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

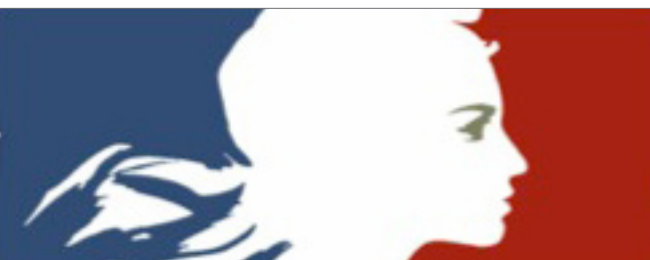
France votes the left into the Senate majority for the first time in the Fifth Republic's history.

MAY 6, 2012

France elects François Hollande president of the Republic, the first Socialist president since 1995.

June 17, 2012

France gives the Socialist Party an absolute majority in the National Assembly.



This Guide was prepared by the
French-American Foundation—United States

Writers: Patrick Lattin & Eugénie Briet

The French Institutions

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

France's political system is organized as a semi-presidential republic, meaning that its executive branch is led both by a president and a prime minister. Newly elected President François Hollande and newly appointed Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault both belong to the Socialist Party (PS). Unlike the U.S. president, who is elected indirectly by the Electoral College, the French president is elected directly by universal suffrage for a five-year term and serves as the head of state. The president appoints the prime minister to serve as the head of government.



Elysée Palace

DIVISIONS OF POWER

The president appoints the prime minister, presides over the cabinet, serves as commander-in-chief of the armed forces and concludes treaties. In the event of a national emergency, the president may assume comprehensive powers.

Normally, however, the president does not introduce legislation, instead only making suggestions to Parliament and the prime minister. In fact, most of the president's powers require countersignature by the prime minister; one notable exception is the power to dissolve the National Assembly. The most recent dissolution of the National Assembly occurred in 1997. Then-President Jacques Chirac's decision to do so resulted in early legislative elections that cost his party the majority in the National Assembly.

The prime minister directs the operations of the government and, while not the commander-in-chief of the armed forces, is responsible for the management of defense policy and coordinates the defense-related activities of government ministries. The prime minister also coordinates the implementation of laws and, unlike the president, has the right to introduce bills in Parliament.

COHABITATION

When the president's political party controls the National Assembly, the president is the dominant player and appoints the prime minister, typically from the same party. However, if an opposing party controls the National Assembly, the president must choose a prime minister and a cabinet reflecting the majority party in the National Assembly. This power sharing arrangement is known as *cohabitation*.

However, reforms were adopted in the early 2000s to reduce the likelihood of future periods of *cohabitation*. The presidential term was shortened from seven years to five, making it the same length as the term of *députés* in the National Assembly. Since 2002, the French have elected all 577 deputies a few weeks after choosing their president.



Salon Murat, Cabinet meeting room, Elysée Palace

THE CABINET

The cabinet plays a key role in the executive branch, advising the president and prime minister in specific policy domains. The cabinet is a council of ministers appointed by the president at the suggestion of the prime minister. Traditionally, the cabinet comprises members of three ranks. Ministers (*ministres*) are the most senior members of the cabinet; deputy ministers (*ministres délégués*) assist ministers in key priorities of the ministry; secretaries of state (*secrétaires d'état*) assist ministers in less crucial areas and attend cabinet meetings only occasionally.

The number of ministries, as well as the nature of their responsibilities, can vary depending on the priorities of the president and the prime minister. Nevertheless, a few ministries, called the *ministères régaliens* (historically, *régalien* refers to royal powers) are always the same: defense, foreign affairs, justice, interior and finance.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

France's Parliament consists of two chambers – the National Assembly and the Senate. They pass laws, vote on the national budget and monitor the actions of the executive branch.

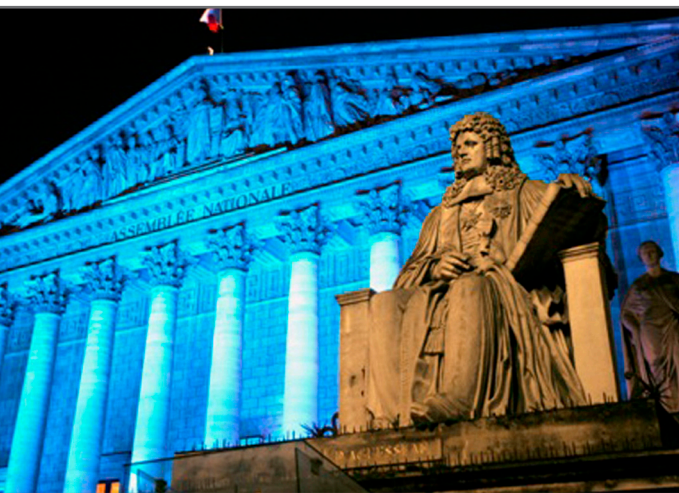
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

There are 577 *députés* in the National Assembly, which like the Senate, has the authority to submit and amend bills and vote on the budget. While both chambers must pass a bill for it to become a law, the cabinet can decide to give the National Assembly the last word in the legislative process in the event of a disagreement between the two chambers. Unlike the Senate, the National Assembly has the power to censure a government if a majority of the total Assembly membership votes in favor.

Députés in the National Assembly are elected to a five-year term by direct universal suffrage in a two-round system of elections. All members of the National Assembly are elected at one time. In the first round of elections, a candidate must receive more than half of the votes cast in order to win.

If there is no winner from the first round, a second round of elections is held. The winner is the candidate who receives the largest share of votes. Any candidate receiving more than 12.5 percent of the vote in the first round is eligible to take part in the runoff elections. While two candidates generally pass on to the second round of elections, three or even four candidates can face off in what is called a *triangulaire* or *quadrangulaire*.

For the first time in 2012, French nationals living abroad elected *députés* in 11 districts. Each district was designed to create a proportional representation of French citizens comparable to those represented by *députés* in mainland France.



Assemblée Nationale



Sénat

SENATE

The Senate’s legislative powers are similar to those of the National Assembly. Senators represent local governments (*collectivités territoriales*). The Senate submits and amends bills as well as votes on the budget. The National Assembly can overrule the Senate in the legislative process in the case of a disagreement, but unlike the National Assembly, the Senate cannot be dissolved. Members of the Senate are elected indirectly by electoral colleges in their districts and serve six-year terms. Every three years, half of the Senate is up for re-election. There are 348 seats in the Senate.

The last Senate election was held in September 2011, when the Socialist Party took the majority for the first time since the beginning of the Fifth Republic in 1958. The Senate’s leftist parties, led by the Socialist Party, had made gains in the past three elections, adding 14 senators in 2004, 19 in 2008 and 22 in 2011. In the wake of the historic shift, Socialist Senator Jean-Pierre Bel of the southwestern department of Ariège was elected president of the Senate on October 1, 2011.

Once elected, senators separate into “political groups” based on political inclinations. Each group must comprise ad minima 10 senators. The most recent Senate took office on March 19, 2012, after half the Senate was re-elected on September 25, 2011. The current set of senate groups aligns closely with the prevalent political parties in France, with the exception of the European Democratic & Social Rally Group – a bipartisan, centrist group that comprises senators from various parties traditionally considered both left and right. Members are free to vote as they please with no expectation of party discipline.

Left

Socialists & Allies Group



130

Communist, Republican & Citizen Group



21

Ecologist Group



10

161

Right

Union for a Popular Movement Group



132

Centrist Union & Republican Group



31

163

Other

European Democratic & Social Rally Group



17

Unaffiliated senators



7

SENATE GROUPS

as of March 19, 2012, following the left’s rise to power resulting from the September 2011 elections

The New French President

FRANÇOIS HOLLANDE

François Hollande, 58, is the 24th president of the French Republic. Hollande officially took office as president of the Republic on May 15, 2012, following his election on May 6 with 51.7 percent of the vote.

Hollande is a prominent member of the Socialist Party. He served as a deputy in the National Assembly for the first constituency of Corrèze, a department in central France, from 1997 to his inauguration as president. From 2008 to his inauguration, he also served as president of the General Council of Corrèze. From 1997 to 2008, he was the head of the French Socialist Party. He was the mayor of the small town of Tulle from 2001 to 2008.

Hollande graduated from the prestigious Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po), as well as the École Nationale d'Administration (ENA) for aspiring French civil servants and government officials.

Throughout his electoral campaign, Hollande emphasized his everyman style, which he contrasted with that of his opponent Nicolas Sarkozy. In the campaign leading up to the second round, Hollande focused on the eurozone crisis and the state of the economy.

Hollande is a French-American Foundation Young Leader (1996) and lived in the United States in the summer of 1974 while a university student.



François Hollande

POLITICAL AGENDA

DOMESTIC PRIORITIES

EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC GROWTH // creation of a public investment bank to invest in public research // promotion of innovation and small businesses // endorsement of the eurobond system for the European Union // strengthening of youth employment

FINANCE // reduction of public deficit to 0 percent of GDP by 2017 // tax reform to create more revenue without penalizing the middle class // separation of lending and investment in banks

EDUCATION // creation of an additional 60,000 civil-servant posts (teachers, education advisors, etc.) // reform of teacher training

ENVIRONMENT // reduction of the share of electricity generated by nuclear power in France from 75 to 50 percent in favor of renewable energy sources // tax incentives to encourage sustainable development

SOCIETY // marriage and adoption for same-sex couples // restoration of retirement age to 60 years old for those who have worked 41 years and began work at 18 // legislation to restrain the increase in housing rents

INTERNATIONAL PRIORITIES

// Withdrawal of French troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2012

// Promotion of peace between Israel and the Palestinian Authority and support for the international recognition of a Palestinian state

// Renewal of relations with North African and Middle Eastern countries in the wake of the “Arab Spring”

// Reform of the traditional relationship between France and sub-Saharan African nations

// Advancement of France to the forefront on issues pertaining to climate change, including better relations with emerging countries on environmental issues and the creation of a World Environment Organization



Hollande, U.S. President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the G-8 Summit at Camp David on May 19, 2012

FRANÇOIS HOLLANDE'S INAUGURATION SPEECH

Given May 15, 2012, as translated by the French Embassy in the United States

“ On this day of my investiture into the highest office of the state, I send the French people a message of confidence. We are a great country which, through its history, has always been able to brave the ordeals and take up the challenges facing it. Every time, it succeeded in doing so by remaining what it is. [...] The mandate I received from the French people on May 6 is to put France back on her feet, in a fair way. Open up a new way in Europe. Contribute to world peace and the protection of the planet.”

NATIONAL UNITY

“ The country needs calm, reconciliation and to come together. It's the president of the Republic's role to help bring this about. [...] Whatever our age, whatever our firm beliefs, wherever we live – in mainland France or in overseas France, in our towns and cities or in our rural areas, we are France. Not one France set against another, but a reunited France with the same community of destiny.”

JUSTICE

“ Justice in the very concept of wealth creation. It's time to put production back above speculation, future investment above present satisfaction, sustainable employment above immediate profit. [...] But justice, too, in the way the essential effort is distributed. There cannot be sacrifices for ever more people and privileges for ever fewer. This will be the thrust of the reforms the government will carry out, with a concern to reward merit, work and initiative and to discourage exorbitant income and remuneration. Justice will be the criterion on which each public decision will be taken.”

EUROPEAN CRISIS

“ To overcome the crisis that is hitting it, Europe needs projects. It needs solidarity. It needs growth. I shall propose to our partners a new pact combining the necessary reduction in public debt with the essential stimulation of the economy.”

The New French Government

THE PRIME MINISTER

Hollande appointed Jean-Marc Ayrault as his prime minister on May 15, 2012.

Jean-Marc Ayrault, 62, is the former head of the Socialist Party in the French National Assembly (1997-2012). Since 1989, he has also served as mayor of Nantes, the sixth largest city in France. Ayrault has announced that he will resign as mayor as soon as possible to focus on his new responsibilities.

Ayrault is close to Hollande, having supported him during the Socialist Party's 2011 primary election and played an active role during Hollande's presidential campaign. Both Hollande and Ayrault have promised to return to a traditional French division of power: a president who sets the overall agenda and a prime minister who implements it.

Thanks to his experience at the National Assembly, the new prime minister brings a strong knowledge of the workings of the legislature, which could be key to building a strong working relationship with the two houses of parliament.

Ayrault was a teacher of German for 13 years before climbing the Socialist Party's echelons. His language skills and knowledge of German culture have been considered a gesture of Hollande's commitment to the French-German relationship. "This is a strong signal to Germany," Sigmar Gabriel, chairman of Germany's left-leaning Social Democratic Party, said in an interview.



Jean-Marc Ayrault

THE CABINET

On May 16, 2012, Ayrault announced a cabinet comprising 34 members. In a symbolic gesture, all members resigned before the legislative elections held June 17 before Ayrault re-confirmed the cabinet four days later. Prior to the elections, Ayrault had announced that any cabinet member running for a seat in the National Assembly would only maintain their ministerial status if he or she won the election. As all 25 of the cabinet members who ran for office indeed won their legislative races, the cabinet announced on June 21 comprised the same 34 members with four additions.

Fullfilling Hollande's campaign promise, this government was the first to implement a strict gender parity. The initial cabinet was made up of 18 ministers – nine women and nine men – and 16 deputy ministers – eight women and eight men. After the reconfiguration announced on June 21, that number included two more female ministers and two additional male deputy ministers. The cabinet is dominated

by moderate members of the left, notably members of the Socialist Party. The government also reflects Hollande's commitment to promoting a new generation of leaders. Only five of the cabinet members have been ministers in the past.



*Cabinet of
Prime Minister
Jean-Marc Ayrault*

THE MINISTRIES

Jean-Marc Ayrault

Prime Minister

Alain Vidalies

Deputy Minister for Parliamentary Relations

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Laurent Fabius

Minister

Bernard Cazeneuve

Deputy Minister for European Affairs

Pascal Canfin

Deputy Minister for International Development

Yamina Benguigui

Deputy Minister for Francophony

Hélène Conway

Deputy Minister for French Nationals Abroad

ECONOMY & FINANCE

Pierre Moscovici

Minister

Jérôme Cahuzac

Deputy Minister for the Budget

Benoît Hamon

Deputy Minister for Economic Solidarity & Consumer Affairs

INDUSTRIAL RENEWAL

Arnaud Montebourg

Minister

Fleur Pellerin

Deputy Minister for Small & Medium-Sized Enterprises, Innovation & the Digital Economy

FOREIGN TRADE

Nicole Bricq

Minister

ARTISINAL ECONOMY, COMMERCE & TOURISM

Sylvia Pinel

Minister

INTERIOR

Manuel Valls

Minister

DEFENSE

Jean-Yves Le Drian

Minister

Kader Arif

Deputy Minister for Veterans

JUSTICE

Christiane Taubira

Minister & Keeper of the Seals

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Najat Vallaud-Belkacem

Minister & Government Spokesperson

SOCIAL AFFAIRS & HEALTH

Marisol Touraine

Minister

Michèle Delaunay

Deputy Minister for Senior Citizens & Long-Term Care

Dominique Bertinotti

Deputy Minister for the Family

Marie-Arlette Carlotti

Deputy Minister for the Disabled & the Fight Against Discrimination

NATIONAL EDUCATION

Vincent Peillon

Minister

George Pau-Langevin

Deputy Minister for Educational Success

REGIONAL EQUALITY & HOUSING

Cécile Duflot

Minister

François Lamy

Deputy Minister for Urban Affairs

CULTURE & COMMUNICATION

Aurélie Filippetti

Minister

ECOLOGY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT & ENERGY

Delphine Batho

Minister

Frédéric Cuvillier

Deputy Minister for Transport, Maritime Affairs & Fisheries

LABOR, EMPLOYMENT, VOCATIONAL TRAINING & SOCIAL AFFAIRS

Michel Sapin

Minister

Thierry Repentin

Deputy Minister for Vocational Training & Apprenticeship

HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Geneviève Fioraso

Minister

AGRICULTURE, AGRIBUSINESS & FORESTRY

Stéphane Le Foll

Minister

Guillaume Garot

Deputy Minister for Agribusiness

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM, DECENTRALIZATION & CIVIL SERVICE

Marylise Lebranchu

Minister

Anne-Marie Escoffier

Deputy Minister for Decentralization

OVERSEAS TERRITORIES

Victorin Lurel

Minister

SPORTS, YOUTH, LIFELONG EDUCATION & CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

Valérie Fourneyron

Minister

Cabinet members named June 21, following the final results of legislative elections on June 17

THE CABINET'S KEY PLAYERS



Laurent Fabius // Minister of Foreign Affairs

In 1984, Laurent Fabius, then 37, became the youngest prime minister in the Fifth Republic, a position he held for two years during François Mitterrand's presidency. He also served as a minister several times under Mitterrand and once in Prime Minister Lionel Jospin's cabinet.



Pierre Moscovici // Minister of the Economy, Finance and Foreign Trade

A Young Leader of the French-American Foundation (1996), Pierre Moscovici is a pro-European Union politician who could be a key player in the European negotiations around the euro crisis. He was a member of the European Parliament (1994-1997) before becoming Lionel Jospin's Minister of European Affairs (1997-2002). He became Hollande's campaign director after Hollande's victory in the Socialist primary.



Manuel Valls // Minister of the Interior

Born in Barcelona, Spain, Valls became a naturalized French citizen in 1982 at the age of 20. A member of the French National Assembly since 2001 and mayor of the city of Evry, Valls was also a special advisor to two Socialist prime ministers: Michel Rocard (1988-1991) and Lionel Jospin (1997-2001). Valls was also a candidate in the Socialist presidential primary of 2011. At the Ministry of the Interior, he must address questions on issues including immigration, secularism and public safety.



Jean-Yves Le Drian // Minister of Defense

A former member of the French National Assembly, Jean-Yves Le Drian was president of the local assembly of Brittany from 2004 to 2012. An activist since his youth, Le Drian participated in the May 1968 protests as the head of several student organizations and joined the Socialist Party in 1974. A longtime friend of Hollande, Le Drian worked on defense issues for Hollande's presidential campaign.



Christiane Taubira // Minister of Justice & Keeper of the Seals

Christiane Taubira, born in French Guiana, an overseas region of France, was the representative of her region in the National Assembly. She is also a former member of the European Parliament. She is a well-known independent politician and is not a member of the Socialist Party.



Marisol Touraine // Minister of Social Affairs and Health

A Young Leader of the French-American Foundation (1998), Marisol Touraine was a member of the French National Assembly before her appointment as minister. She has also been president of the General Council of Indre-et-Loire since 2011.



Arnaud Montebourg // Minister of Industrial Renewal

A Young Leader of the French-American Foundation (2000), Arnaud Montebourg was a National Assembly *député* before being appointed minister for industrial renewal, a newly created ministry to promote employment growth and improve economic competitiveness. Montebourg has also been president of the General Council of Saône-et-Loire since 2008. Montebourg was a candidate for the 2011 Socialist presidential primary and arrived in third place behind Hollande and Martine Aubry.



Najat Vallaud-Belkacem // Minister of Women's Rights // Cabinet Spokesperson

A Young Leader of the French-American Foundation (2006), Najat Vallaud-Belkacem's role as a minister is to prepare and implement the government's policy regarding women's rights, gender parity in political representation and professional equity. At 35, Moroccan-born Vallaud-Belkacem is the youngest minister in Ayrault's cabinet. In 2011, she served as a spokesperson for Hollande's presidential campaign, as she had for Ségolène Royal in 2007.

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

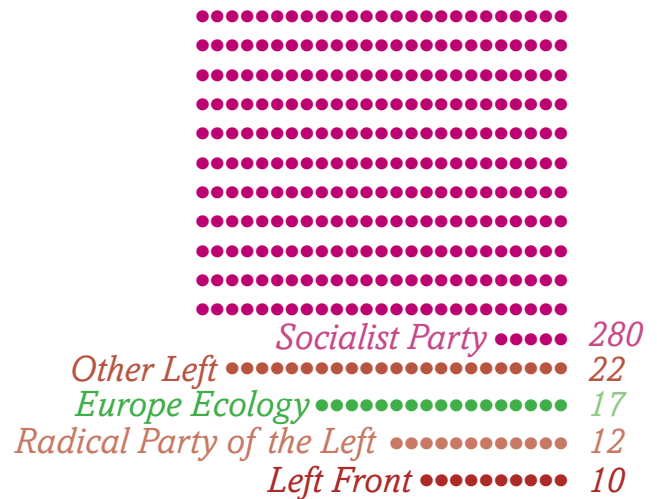
Following the second round of elections on June 17, the Socialist Party and the left had indeed secured an absolute majority surpassing by far the 289 of 577 seats required to hold the majority in the lower house. While the left acquired a total of 341 seats, the Socialist Party and closest allies (Radical Party of the Left and Citizen and Republican Movement) had alone obtained a majority with about 320 seats. Two traditional allies on the left, Europe Ecology - The Greens and the Left Front elected about 20 and 10 députés, respectively. However, the influence of these minority groups could be negligible, as the Socialist Party will not need to rely on those votes to enact legislation.

The right, particularly the Union for a Popular Movement (UMP) party of former President Nicolas Sarkozy, saw a considerable reduction in its presence in the National Assembly. A number of prominent politicians once affiliated with Sarkozy lost their elections, including former Interior Minister Claude Guéant and Foreign Affairs Minister Michèle Alliot-Marie. Among Sarkozy's former cabinet members who won their elections were Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet, former Ecology Minister and spokesperson for Sarkozy's government, and Henri Guaino, a speechwriter and political advisor to Sarkozy.

François Bayrou, leader and 2012 presidential candidate of the Democratic Movement (MoDem) party, lost his election in a *triangulaire* that favored a Socialist. While his centrist MoDem party ended the election with a mere two députés, the three-time presidential candidate said he would retain a role in French politics.

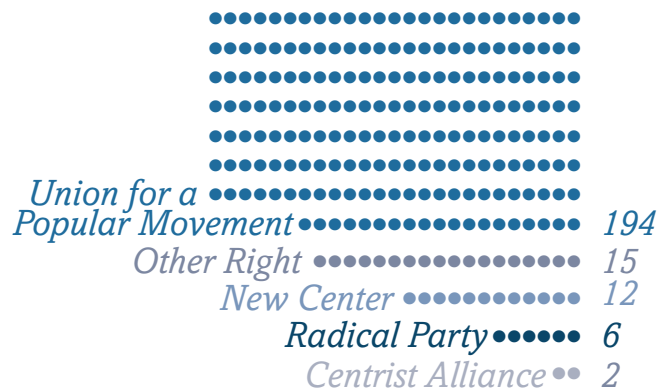
The National Front also ended with two wins in the National Assembly elections, which was the first time since 1997 that the far-right party had earned representation in the lower house.

Left



341

Right



229

Other



Results from the Ministry of the Interior.

However, the National Front's leader, Marine Le Pen – daughter of National Front founder Jean-Marie Le Pen, who made waves in France's 2002 presidential elections by advancing to the second round – lost her legislative race in the 11th district of Pas-de-Calais to Socialist Philippe Kemel after coming in first with more than 42 percent of votes in the first round.

Marine Le Pen made news between the two rounds by publicly announcing a “black list,” calling on supporters of the National Front to vote against eight specific candidates from the right and left, including Kosciusko-Morizet. While half of the eight won their elections, the four who lost included Jack Lang, a prominent Socialist and former minister of both culture and education.

Another scandal arose when Socialist Party dissident Olivier Falorni refused to withdraw from a second-round runoff in the first district of Charente-Maritime against Ségolène Royal – 2007 second-round presidential candidate, president of the region of Poitou-Charentes and projected future president of the National Assembly. Falorni beat the prominent Socialist figure with nearly 63 percent of votes.

In the first election of *députés* to represent French citizens living abroad, *les Français à l'étranger* followed suit with mainland France by electing eight candidates from the left – seven Socialists, one Green – of the 11 seats in this new category. In the first district, comprising the United States and Canada, Socialist Corinne Narassiguin won with 54 percent of

votes against UMP candidate Frédéric Lefebvre in a district that had favored Nicolas Sarkozy in the presidential elections the month before.

As the election of the newest government reached its final ballot, French voters seemed to express a waning interest. Abstention was at 44.1 percent in the second-round legislative elections, up from the 20.52 percent and 19.65 percent reported in the first and second round of the presidential elections in April and May 2012.

The number of women elected to the National Assembly was at an all-time high, rising from 107 *députées* in 2007 to 155 in 2012, meaning women will comprise 27 percent of the Assembly. Of the 577 *députés* elected, 344 were incumbent candidates and 16 had previously held the office, while 217 (38 percent) were elected for the first time. At 22, Marion Maréchal-Le Pen of the National Front was the youngest Assembly member elected not only in this election but in the history of the French Fifth Republic. At 76, François Scellier of the UMP, was the oldest elected in 2012. The average age of elected *députés* was 54.6.

The new Assembly *députés* officially took office on June 20. On June 21, the Socialist majority in the National Assembly voted to present Claude Bartolone – *député* from Seine-Saint-Denis and former minister for the city (1998-2002) – as the majority party's candidate for the presidency of the National Assembly, anticipated to be confirmed in a vote on June 26.



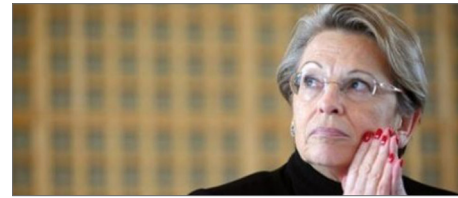
François Bayrou, MoDem



Nathalie Kosciusko-Morizet, UMP



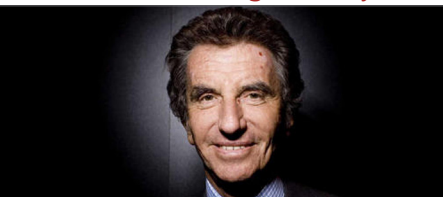
Claude Guéant, UMP



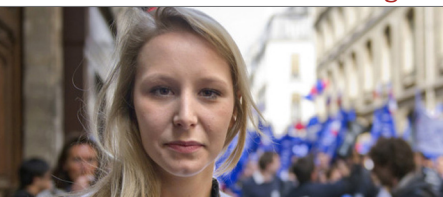
Michèle Alliot-Marie, UMP



Ségolène Royal, PS



Jack Lang, PS



Marion Maréchal-Le Pen, FN



Marine Le Pen, FN

INSTITUTIONS

FRENCH PRESIDENCY

www.elysee.fr

Learn more about the role of the president, the history of the presidents of the Fifth Republic and much more. *Only in French.*

PRIME MINISTER & GOVERNMENT

www.gouvernement.fr

Find detailed information on all the ministries and ministers: missions, biographies, agenda. *Only in French.*

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

www.assemblee-nationale.fr

Find detailed information about the mandate, composition, work of the National Assembly. *In French & English.*

SENATE

www.senat.fr

Find detailed information about the role, composition and work of the Senate. *In French & English.*

EMBASSY OF FRANCE

www.franceintheus.org

Find extensive information on France and French-American relations, as well as resources for traveling to France. *In English & French.*

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

www.diplomatie.fr

Learn more about France in the world, foreign policy and going to France but also about French institutions, thanks to the article, “Discovering France” (in the English section). *In English & French.*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

www.state.gov/p/eur/ci/fr/

Read the State Department’s background notes on France. *Only in English.*

THE NEW GOVERNMENT

HOLLANDE’S INAUGURATION SPEECH

<http://www.elysee.fr/president/mediatheque/videos/2012/mai/discours-de-m-le-president-de-la-republique.13208.html?search=&xtmc=&xcr=&offset=0&context=null>

Video & Transcript in French.

<http://ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article3469>

Transcript in English.

FRENCH GOVERNMENT: WHO’S IN & WHO’S OUT?

<http://www.france24.com/en/20120517-france-2012-hollande-new-government-ayrault-prime-minister-aubry-valls-moscovici>

France 24 video in English.

HOLLANDE OUSTS SARKOZY IN FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/07/world/europe/hollande-and-sarkozy-in-crucial-runoff-in-france.html?_r=1&pagewanted=all
May 6, 2012, New York Times article (English).

TIME INTERVIEW OF FRENCH PRESIDENTIAL FRONT-RUNNER FRANÇOIS HOLLANDE

<http://globalspin.blogs.time.com/2012/04/13/time-interviews-french-presidential-front-runner-francois-hollande/>
April 13, 2012, interview (English) in TIME.

FRENCH-AMERICAN RELATIONS

HOLLANDE - OBAMA

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/2012/05/18/president-obama-s-bilateral-meeting-president-francois-hollande-fr>

Hollande and Obama speak to the press after a bilateral meeting in the Oval Office. *Video in French & English.*

HOLLANDE - CLINTON

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/pix/2012/05/190375.htm>

Lunch hosted by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton with François Hollande. *In English.*

LE DRIAN - PANETTA

<http://ambafrance-us.org/spip.php?article3491>

French Minister of Defense Jean-Yves Le Drian meets with U.S. Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta. *In English.*

FRENCH-AMERICAN RELATIONS AFTER THE ELECTION OF FRANÇOIS HOLLANDE

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2012/05/22-us-france-vaisse>

French-American Foundation Young Leader (2007) Justin Vaïsse, Director of Research at the Center on the United States and Europe at the Brookings Institute, explores the effect of Hollande's election on French-American relations. *In English.*

FRENCH-AMERICAN FOUNDATION RESOURCES

Your Guide to the FRENCH ELECTIONS 2012

January 2012



WEBINAR: LE CHANGEMENT... ET MAINTENANT?

<http://frenchamerican.org/events/webinar-le-changement-et-maintenant-frances-shift-left-and-prospects-change-christopher>

Listen to this discussion with Christopher Dickey, Newsweek magazine Paris bureau chief, on the reasons for France's shift to the left and the implications thereof.

In English.

GUIDE TO THE FRENCH ELECTIONS 2012

<http://frenchamerican.org/policy-briefs/your-guide-french-elections-2012>

Published in January 2012, this Guide provides information about the electoral process in France, France's political parties and the key candidates in the 2012 presidential elections.

In English.

FRENCH-AMERICAN FOUNDATION WEEKLY BRIEF

<http://frenchamerican.org/weekly-brief>

The Weekly Brief provides information about the Foundation's programs and events, as well as a news and press review of the top stories from France, Europe and the United States.

In English.

ABOUT THE FRENCH-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

Founded in 1976, concurrently with its sister foundation in France, the French-American Foundation—United States is the only non-governmental organization in the United States dedicated specifically to strengthening the relationship between the two countries. It does so by bringing together leaders, policy makers, and a full range of professionals to exchange views, share best practices and consider how each country might benefit from the expertise and experience of the other. We accomplish this mission through conferences and study tours on subjects such as national security and defense, sustainability, equality of opportunity (for universal access to education, employment and health care), business, media and culture.



We depend on the generosity of our partners who share our belief that the French-American relationship continues to be unique and valuable, and their crucial support allows us to continue the work that leads to better policy decisions, builds effective networks and increases innovation and cooperation in both nations.

These partnerships are essential to the Foundation's ability to maintain the important programs that achieve these goals and address some of the most critical issues that shape our economies, our societies, our political choices and our way of life. With French-American Foundation Young Leader François Hollande now in office as the president of France, and with six other Young Leaders in his cabinet, it is clearer than ever that our work has enormous potential to significantly and positively impact all of these areas.

We would welcome the opportunity to speak with you about getting involved with the Foundation and supporting our work.

The French-American Foundation is an independent, non-partisan, not-for-profit, qualifying tax-exempt organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.



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